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Two Groups Raise \$500,000 For FBI Agents' Legal Defense Fees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Political conservatives and former FBI agents have raised nearly a half million dollars to pay legal fees for John J. Kearney, the onetime bureau supervisor who faces trial in October, and dozens of other FBI men.

Only two groups are soliciting contributions specifically for the legal defense of Kearney and other present or former FBI agents involved in the Justice Department investigation of FBI burglaries, mail-opening and wiretapping.

But other organizations, such as the American Legion and the Young Americans for Freedom, have declared support for Kearney.

And the newly formed Security and Intelligence Fund has solicited contributions with a letter implying that the money will be used for Kearney's defense, although that's not necessarily so.

This has caused consternation among potential contributors who have received three different appeals for money, John O'Beirne, chairman of the Washington chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, said.

The 7,000-member national society has a legal defense fund, and this is the only organization that actually receives and pays the legal bills. O'Beirne has been organizing the effort and acting as liaison with the other groups.

"The overlapping and duplication in solicitation letters has caused us a little bit of a problem, but we hope we're working it out," he said in an interview.

Through its regular newsletters, the society has solicited contributions from its members, who have donated \$290,000 so far, O'Beirne said. "We've already paid out over \$110,000 of that to cover the defense of some 47 individuals."

The Ad Hoc Citizens Legal Defense Fund for the FBI has raised \$180,000 from about 10,000 persons during the last seven weeks, its administrative director, Marvin Liebman, said.

Liebman operates the fund out of his New York public relations office. The fund was created by three prominent conservative Republicans—former Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, former Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons. R-N.Y.) and former Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce.

Liebman said the money he collected, minus mailing and other costs, would be turned over to the society of ex-agents.

Confusion arose from a solicitation letter mailed by the Security and Intelligence Fund to more than 100,000 persons since early June.

James Angleton, the former counterintelligence chief of the CIA who was ousted in the wake of disclosures of improper CIA activities, is chairman of the fund and one of its found-

ders.

The fund president is retired Ambassador Elbridge Durbrow, and the secretary-treasurer is retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert C. Richardson. The three make up the fund's board of directors.

"Kearney's defense is our defense," the solicitation letter said. "We've set up the Security and Intelligence Fund to defend John Kearney and any others in the intelligence community who have served their country in the line of duty and may now be forced to use their life savings to defend themselves."

But Richardson said the letter was designed to solicit public support and money for establishing the group as a permanent effort to campaign for strong intelligence agencies.

"We will donate to the Kearney defense fund if they ask us and if it's necessary," Richardson added.

Richardson, O'Beirne and Liebman met last week to discuss the confusion the intelligence fund letter had created. They agreed that the next intelligence fund letters would not stress the Kearney case.

Richardson described the intelligence fund as an outgrowth of the American Security Council, and it operates out of the council's Washington office. The council is a right-wing group that urges a strong military. Richardson and Durbrow have been affiliated with the council for

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